



05-23-01

GAM 2652

Further Response

Paper No. 18

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Carol M. Rines et al

Serial No. 09/039,176
(Divisional of USSN 08/696,294,
filed August 19, 1996, now US Patent
No. 6,002,558, issued December 14, 1999,
in turn a continuation of USSN 08/380,242,
filed January 30, 1995; abandoned, in turn
a continuation of USSN 873,970, filed April
24, 1992, abandoned; in turn a continuation
of USSN 584,134, September 18, 1990, abandoned)

Group Art: 2652

Filed: March 13, 1998

Examiner: Davis, D.

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR EXPANDING FUNCTIONALITY OF
VEHICLE CASSETTE TAPE-PLAYER DECKS TO PERMIT DICTATION OR
OTHER RECORDING AND AUTOMATIC REMOTE STATION RELAYING
OF THE SAME

The Honorable Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Furthering a telephone discussion with the Examiner on May 22, 2001
concerning the advisory action of March 23, 2001 after the final rejection of January
15, 2001, the applicants would respectfully call the attention of the Office that, in
connection with the proposed labeling additions to the drawings, they totally
conform to the precise disclosure of the specification.

The proposed label in the control switch panel 3 at the upper left in Fig. 1
describes "predesignated voice commands for each of 1 [the tape deck with its "REC"
and "PL" controls], RA and RR" [the AM/FM Radio Receiver].

On page 16 of the specification, it is supportingly disclosed that "the control
switches (3) may be actuated by voice commands, recognized by predesignated voice
command words".

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Each of the control switches REC and PL are shown at the control switch panel 3 and are described on pages 12 and 15 as controlling the recording at RA and playback at PA in the tape deck 1.

Specifically, on page 16:

"the driver-expressed words "RECORD" (to actuate REC and PL)" -- -- namely, the switch controls REC and PL connected to the control switch panel 3 for the tape deck 1.

The AM/FM radio receiver RR is similarly shown controlled at R-REC, this also being one of "the controls shown to the left in Fig. 1... (that) may be actuated by predesignated voice command words" (page 16).

As for the label proposed to be added at the bottom left of Fig. 1 to the controls for the modulator of the cellular radio transmitter, it is disclosed on page 12 that the control "REC-TX" controls the application of "modulation signals to the modulator of the cellular telephone transmitter circuit (M¹ in Figs. 1 and 2) and thus to transmit... over the air to the remote station (s) RS ". (See, also, first paragraph of page 15). And, on page 16, this voice commands switch activation of the cellular radio telephone is specifically described as "actuated by voice commands... i.e. the driver-expressed words... RECORD AND TRANSMIT, (to actuate REC-TX)" -- that is, the actuation of the controls of the cellular telephone modulator.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the proposed labels on the drawings should be entered as complying with the earlier Office requirement for showing what is claimed.

And as for what is now claimed, in the above-referenced telephone discussion with the Examiner, applicants pointed out that the amendments to the claims offered in Amendment D of February 28, 2001, appear clearly to obviate the earlier ground of rejection (35. U.S.C. 103) that the earlier claim language was susceptible of dominating the use of "only... one" component (page 5, lines 15-16 of the Office Action), and as such, as possibly reading upon the proposed combination of the teachings of the patents to Sano et al and Sato et al.

In now reciting "a plurality of pre-designated separate voice commands for operation of all of said components and also of the cellular radio telephone", and "the voice-controlled switching means being responsive to the driver speaking such pre-designated commands live at said steering wheel region for thereupon effecting the actuating of the corresponding control switch" (claim 23), applicants would respectfully point out that there is now no way any possible combination of the systems of the patents to Sano et al and Sato et al can meet these terms or function.

Since all of the claims define applicants' novelty in the same particulars, and proper antecedents have been provided by earlier amendment obviating the 35 USC 112, said paragraph objection, it would appear that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is therefore respectfully urged.

Any costs, including for extensions of time required herein, petition for which is hereby made, are to be charged to Deposit Account No. 18-1425 of the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

RINES AND RINES

By: 

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Date: May 22, 2001
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